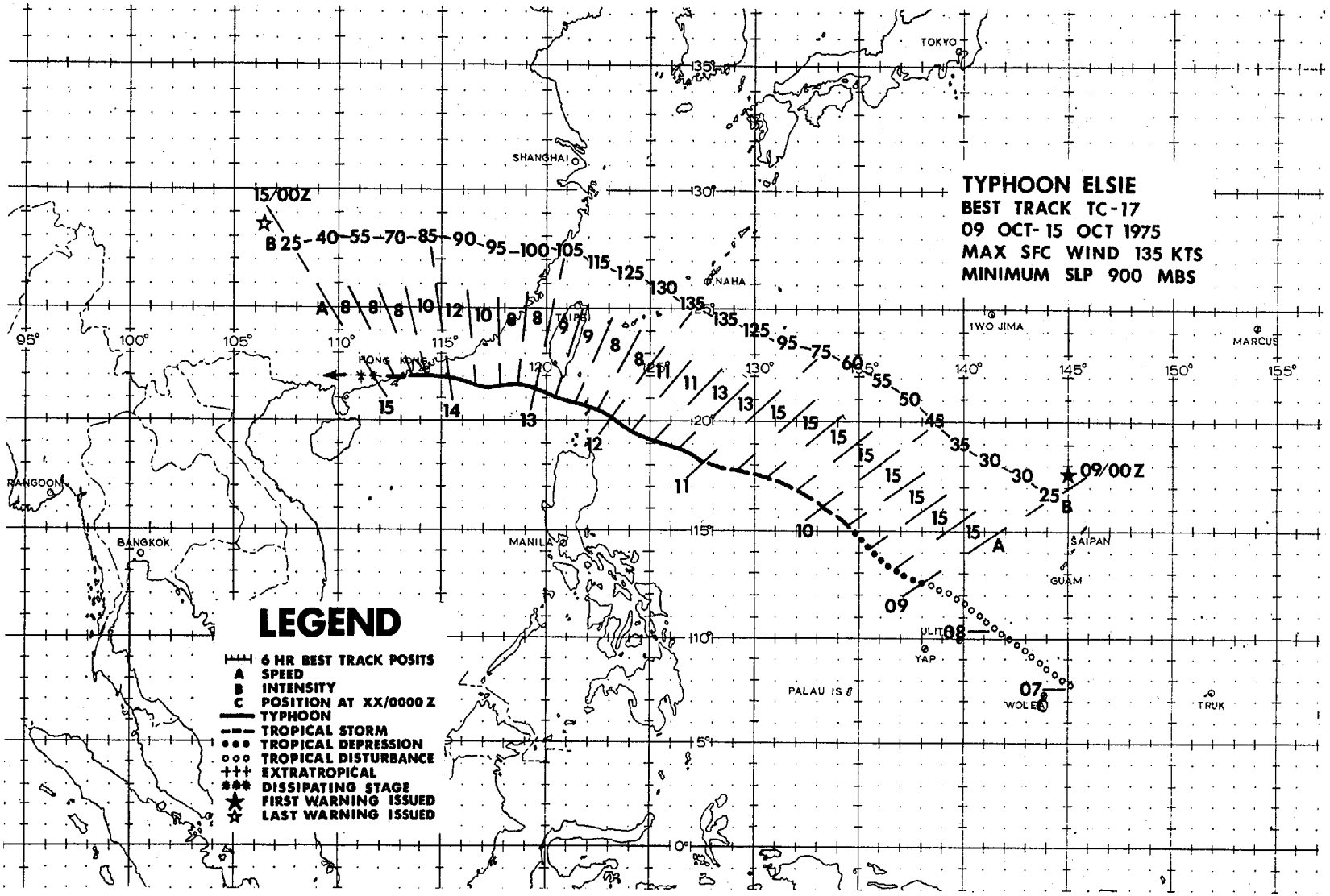
TYPHOON ELSIE
BEST TRACK TC-17
09 OCT- 15 OCT 1975
MAX SFC WIND 135 KTS
MINIMUM SLP 900 MBS
15/00Z
09/00Z
LEGEND
6 HR BEST TRACK POSITS
A SPEED
B INTENSITY
C POSITION AT XX/0000 Z
TYPHOON
TROPICAL STORM
TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
EXTRATROPICAL
DISSIPATING STAGE
FIRST WARNING ISSUED
LAST WARNING ISSUED
TOKYO
SHANGHAI
NAHA
TAIPEI
HONG KONG
IWO JIMA
MARCUS
SAIPAN
GUAM
YAP
ULITHI
WOLEI
TRUK
PALAU IS
MANILA
BANGKOK
RANGOON

By the 6th of October, the monsoonal trough had become quite active and was oriented east-west along 8N from the Philippines to 160E. Typhoon Elsie developed in this trough with a well-defined surface circulation located approximately 250 nm southwest of Guam on the 8th. The first warning was issued on the morning of the 9th and Elsie attained typhoon strength 48 hr later. At this point, Elsie began slowing down as the storm approached the western extent of the mid-tropospheric subtropical ridge.

Elsie then underwent explosive deepening (Fig. 4-20) and aircraft reconnaissance recorded a 69 mb drop in the central pressure at the typhoon center between the 102052Z and 111430Z fixes. The maximum surface winds increased from 65 kt to 135 kt during this period.

As Elsie approached the Bashi Channel, Basco, in the Bataan Islands (WMO station 98135, elev 184 ft), 40 nm east of Elsie's center, reported maximum sustained winds of 65 kt. Elsie continued moving west-northwest through the Bataan Islands on the 12th. As the sub-tropical ridge then built westward, Elsie began a more westerly track into the South China Sea. As the typhoon entered the South China Sea (Fig. 4-21), it began to weaken with inflow restricted to the north by the Asian continent. Still, the Royal Observatory, Hong Kong, reported that typhoon Elsie was one of the most intense typhoons ever to affect Hong Kong in the month of October. Royal Observatory radar began tracking the storm by late afternoon on the 13th and Elsie passed 35 nm to the south of Hong Kong on the 14th. At that time the maximum sustained winds recorded at Hong Kong were 70 kt with gusts up to 118 kt. Fortunately, the maximum winds occured at a low tide, thus reducing flooding. Seven ocean going vessels drifted from their moorings and one small craft and a fishing junk capsized. The lowest pressure recorded in Hong Kong was 987.5 mb. There were no fatalities reported, but 46 people were injured by flying debris.

After passing south of Hong Kong, Elsie continued westward, making landfall on the southern China coast at approximately 1500Z on the 14th. Elsie then dissipated rapidly over the Asian mainland.

FIGURE 4-20. *Typhoon Elsie beginning explosive deepening some 420 nm northeast of Manila, 11 October 1975, 0348Z. (DMSP imagery)*

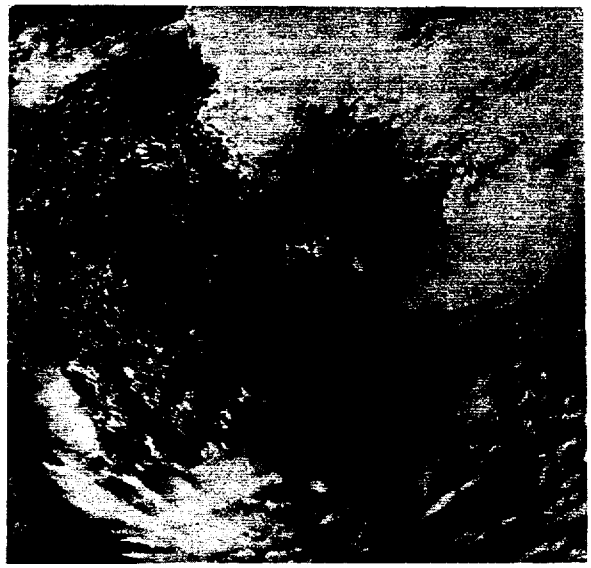

FIGURE 4-21. *Typhoon Elsie entering the South China Sea 260 nm east of Hong Kong, 13 October 1975, 0452Z. (DMSP imagery)*